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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE EFFECT OF WAR ON NURSING

Within the recollection of people living today war has had a marked influence in the development of nursing education. Florence Nightingale had begun the study of nursing and had the idea of training women for this work before the Crimean War, but it was her experience in that war and the appreciation of the English people which made it possible for her to organize the first training school at St. Thomas' Hospital. It was after our own Civil War that training schools developed so rapidly in this country under the organization of a group of women who had been the organizers and administrators of the Sanitary Commission with which the women of practically the whole country were affiliated for what we now call war relief work. Those first schools, especially Bellevue, the New Haven and the Massachusetts General were organized by the women who had had the need of better trained nurses brought home to them by their experiences in connection with such work. The experience of nurses, themselves, in our more recent Spanish-American War brought about the organization of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps and the development of the Red Cross Nursing Service on its present lines. And the necessity of providing a means of legal distinction between the properly trained and the untrained nurses gave an impetus to the movement for state registration.

There will be results beyond our vision from the present terrible struggle in Europe, where the services of highly trained nurses have been of inestimable value in every country engaged in the conflict. This seems to be the psychological moment for making a stronger appeal to educated women, the women of leisure and culture, to see the need at home for wonderful service, a field still untouched, even in times of peace. All over the world thousands of women, of the

kind we want, have had their attention called to the needs of the sick, and those who have been brought in contact with war conditions, in whatever way, must have realized their limitations because of lack of previous training.

The opportunity which we see at the immediate time is for the Committee on Public Education of the National League of Education and for League groups all over the country to take up, vigorously, without loss of time, the work of presenting the need of the nursing profession to the college and high school students making the appeal from the standpoint of service. There are organizations of League members that are rather drifting, without any motive for strong action. There are state associations that are doing little for the public welfare. This work needs the broader dissemination of the sentiment of service to mankind which present conditions in the world make opportune.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

We notice that in the annual report of the Samaritan Hospital, Troy, N. Y., the chairman of the training school committee in giving the report of her committee makes the following statement:

If we are to attract the superior women to our school, we must keep abreast with the times, and to do this means that those who manage and support the hospital must be educated as to the duty of the hospital to the training school; they must realize that like all other educational institutions, that a training school means expense and adequate financial support must be given if the school is to do its work successfully.

One of the things that we especially wish to emphasize is that we want to keep the life of the training school in touch with general normal life, not to allow the questions of symptoms and illness to crowd out the natural interests of a woman's life and to try and increase the general information and breadth of interests in our pupils, for the "finer the person, the finer the nurse," and we must develop the personality of each student; nothing is more easy or deadening than institutionalism. Therefore, it is necessary that our nurses should have sufficient time off duty not only for rest, but for an entire change of thought and mutual relaxation.

The amendment of the Nurse Practice Act will again come before the Legislature this coming session. The bill which was introduced by the Board of Regents is to bring all schools giving a diploma or certificate as a nurse under the Department of Education, a requirement extended to all other types of schools even chiropody. Although the bill had the support of the Hospital Conference, the Department of Public Health and the leading members of the medical and nursing professions and was passed by the Senate, it was held in Committee and did not come before the Assembly. This legislation will be a great protection to the public as well as to the nurse for when a physician is employing a registered nurse, he knows he is guaranteed intelligent service upon which he can rely.

The most important factor in making for progress in a school rests with the woman at its head, and we know how fortunate we are in having a superintendent who has the vision of what the school should be and the power to pass on her own high ideals and aspirations to those who work with her and who so ably second her efforts.

Either this lady has grasped the nursing ideals of the principal of her school or she has naturally a clearer insight into the whole nursing situation than the ordinary lay person possesses. When more of the hospital board members see these things as nurses see them, nursing affairs will progress more rapidly.

SOCIAL INSURANCE

If we understand Miss Russell's paper on Health Insurance, the point which we, as nurses, need to take under careful consideration in the passing of such laws in the various states is whether or not we, as members of a profession, wish to be beneficiaries under such laws; that is, whether such nurses as earn habitually less than \$1200 a year shall be included among the groups for which provision is to be made. Such legislation would seem to apply to the great body of private duty and public health nurses, to those holding subordinate positions in institutions, to young physicians, and to the majority of public school teachers, as well as to the industrial wage earners for whom it is primarily intended.

We know of no group of people who are more entitled to such aid than nurses, for whether they are working in the proper spirit or not, their work is for the health of the community, and so far as we understand the intention of these laws, we believe that all public health workers whose salaries are inadequate should be beneficiaries. In the apportioning of the premiums to be paid, two-fifths by the employer, two-fifths by the employee, and one-fifth by the state, the difficulty of regulating the employer's fee, in the case of the private duty nurse, at once presents itself as a problem, but one which will have to be worked out. Similar problems have already been worked out in England in regard to both doctors and nurses but, we understand, not entirely to their satisfaction.

THE NEED OF STATE SANATORIA FOR TUBERCULAR NURSES

When Miss McIsaac was acting as inter-state secretary, and after her first trip over the country, she was tremendously impressed with the great number of nurses she found in every section laid aside with tuberculosis. We have heard one of the great tuberculosis experts

give it as his opinion that nurses as a class, especially those working in hospitals, develop tuberculosis more commonly than do other groups of workers. He considered that the responsibility for this condition rests largely with the members of the medical profession who fail to warn nurses of the necessity for precaution when they are caring for obscure tuberculosis conditions, especially in operative cases. With proper precaution they should be in no more danger of infection from this than from other diseases.

Nurses who have lived in general hospitals and are familiar with the kind of care which nurses receive there, find it difficult to adjust themselves to the conditions found in the large public sanatoria. Because of the months and years that must be spent in recovery, they find it adds to the discomfort of the illness to accept the unskilled nursing care so frequently provided in public institutions.

A number of state nurses' associations have taken this matter in hand and have provided cottages, either separately or in connection with some large sanatorium where it has been possible to arrange for medical attendance and for the scientific tests and examinations which are necessary, thus providing at a moderate charge a greater degree of privacy than could otherwise be obtained, and more of the little comforts and luxuries that mean so much to the invalid. We know that North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Washington, and possibly Pennsylvania, have some such arrangements. If there are others, we should like to know of them. We think this is something about which every state association should bestir itself. Recent visits to two institutions in the Adirondacks brought to light the fact that at that time there were eighteen nurses under treatment, either graduates or undergraduates, and in the hundreds of such institutions scattered over the country there are undoubtedly a like proportion.

JOURNALISTIC FAIR PLAY

Writers dealing with subjects much before the public often have occasion to refer to or quote from other writers, but it is customary to give credit for all such material by the use of quotation marks, by introducing the quotation with the name of the author, or by adding a footnote which gives the source of information. We have recently had our attention called to several papers read at state meetings and then published in nurses' magazines, one of them having appeared in our own JOURNAL, which were taken almost bodily from well-known text books, from JOURNAL papers or from League proceedings. We do not expect the rank and file of nurses to be familiar with journal-

istic etiquette or with the copyright laws, but we have a right to expect them to be honest in the use of other people's material.

It is perfectly proper to quote a portion of a paper or article if the name of the author and of the magazine in which it appeared are given, and it is in accordance with journalistic courtesy to reprint an article which has appeared in another periodical if permission has been obtained and if credit is given the periodical in which it first appeared. The form of asking permission is not always followed, but no magazine of any standing will publish material which has appeared elsewhere without making it perfectly plain that the article has been copied and from what source.

VIRGINIA LEADS WITH A NEW IDEA

The Board of Nurse Examiners of the state of Virginia has adopted the plan of beginning the state examination with an address by some prominent nurse who deals with such subjects as the value of organization, the concrete things accomplished by their state association, the Red Cross, our national organizations and our national journal. This address is intended to arouse the professional pride of those young women and is of special value to the applicants who come from schools where the superintendent has been lax in teaching ethics and current nursing history.

MISS GOODRICH ASSUMES NEW DUTIES

On the first of January, Annie W. Goodrich assumed the direction of the nursing staff at the Henry Street Settlement, New York. Miss Goodrich will continue to act as assistant professor in the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers College and will not change her place of residence, but she will spend part of her time in supervision of the nursing activities at the Settlement, thus bringing a still closer coöperation between the theoretical side of public health work, as taught at Teachers College, and the practical application of it at the Nurses' Settlement.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE JOURNAL

At the annual meeting of the JOURNAL stockholders, now represented by the Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association, the JOURNAL directors of the past year were re-elected, and at the meeting of the re-elected JOURNAL Board, Miss Noyes was again chosen president and Miss Ahrens, secretary.